

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the specific details shown and described herein, but may be embodied in other forms without departing from the scope of the invention.

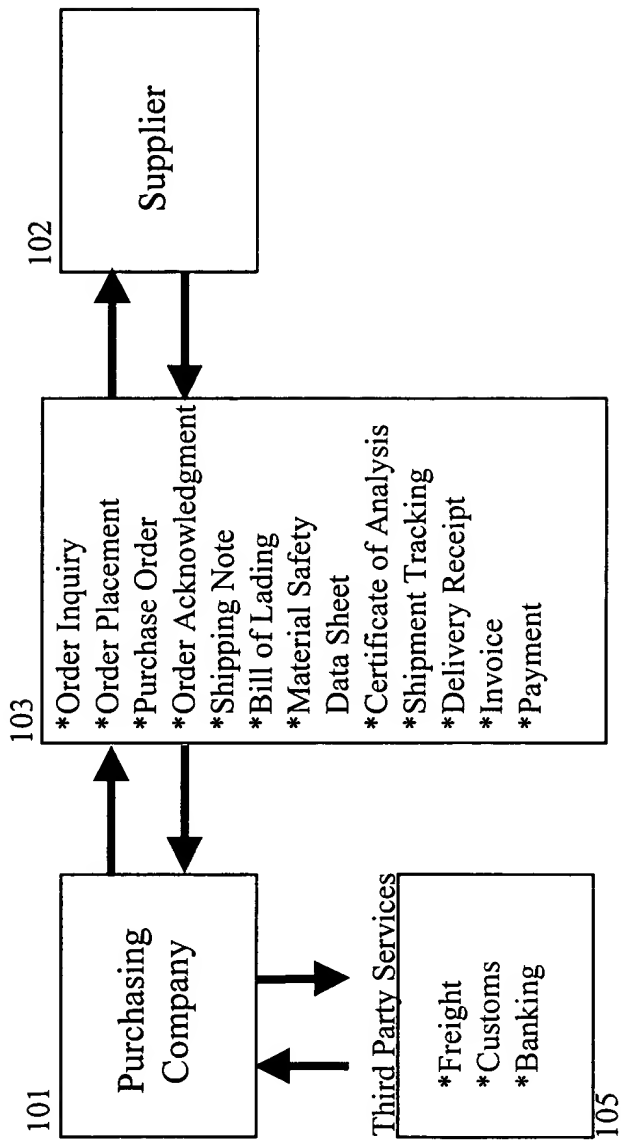


Fig. 1

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a network system 200. The network system 200 includes a plurality of nodes 201 and a central hub 202. The nodes 201 are arranged in a circular pattern around the central hub 202. The central hub 202 is connected to each of the nodes 201. The nodes 201 are also connected to each other in a mesh topology. The network system 200 is used for data communication between the nodes 201 and the central hub 202.

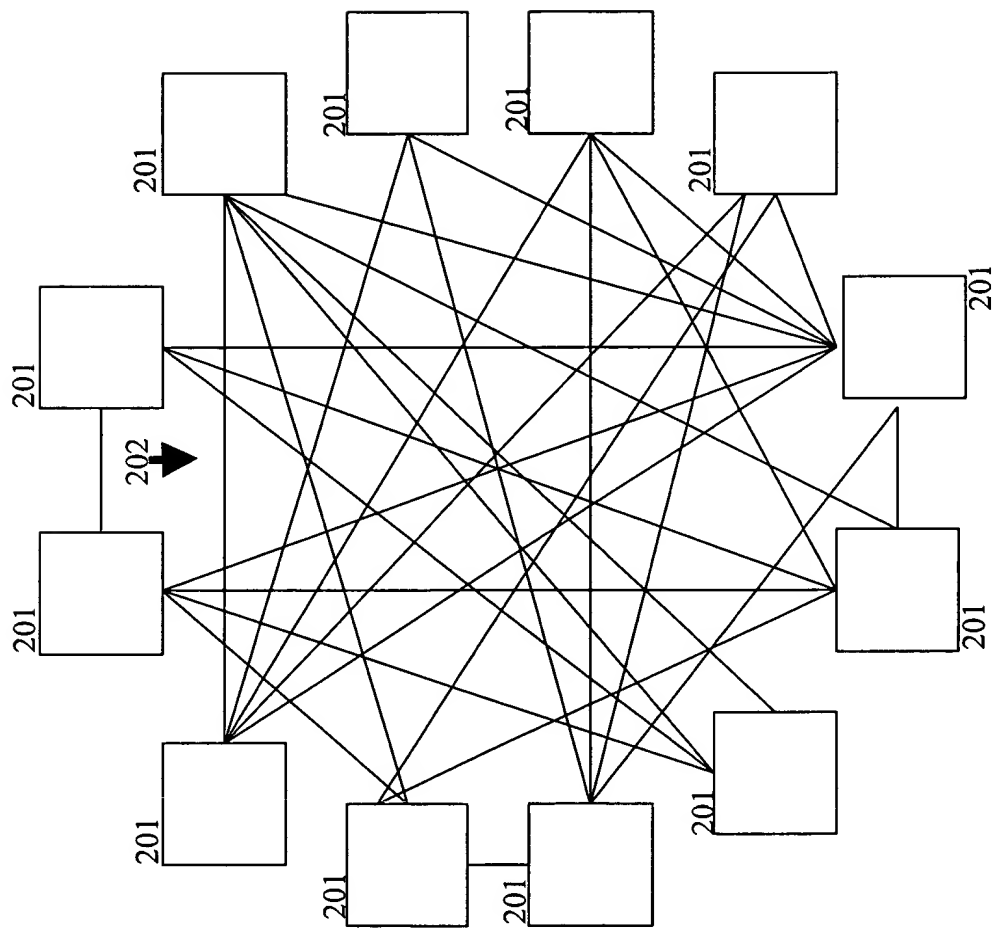


Fig. 2

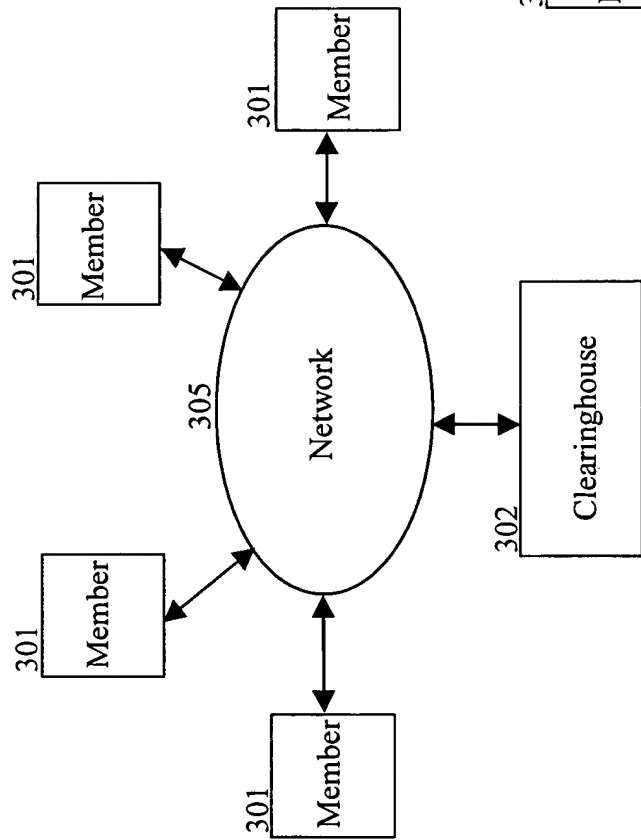


Fig. 3A

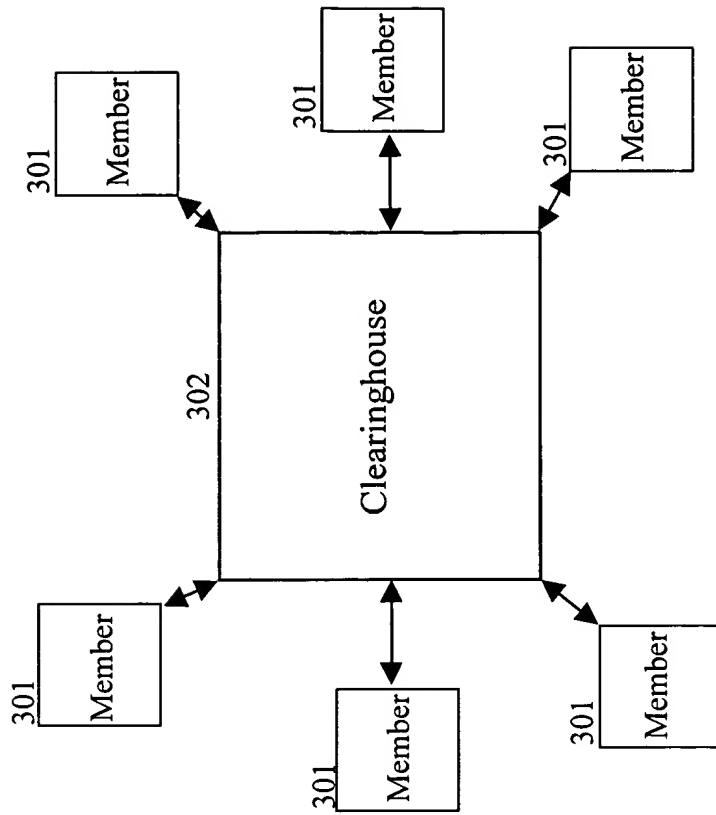


Fig. 3B

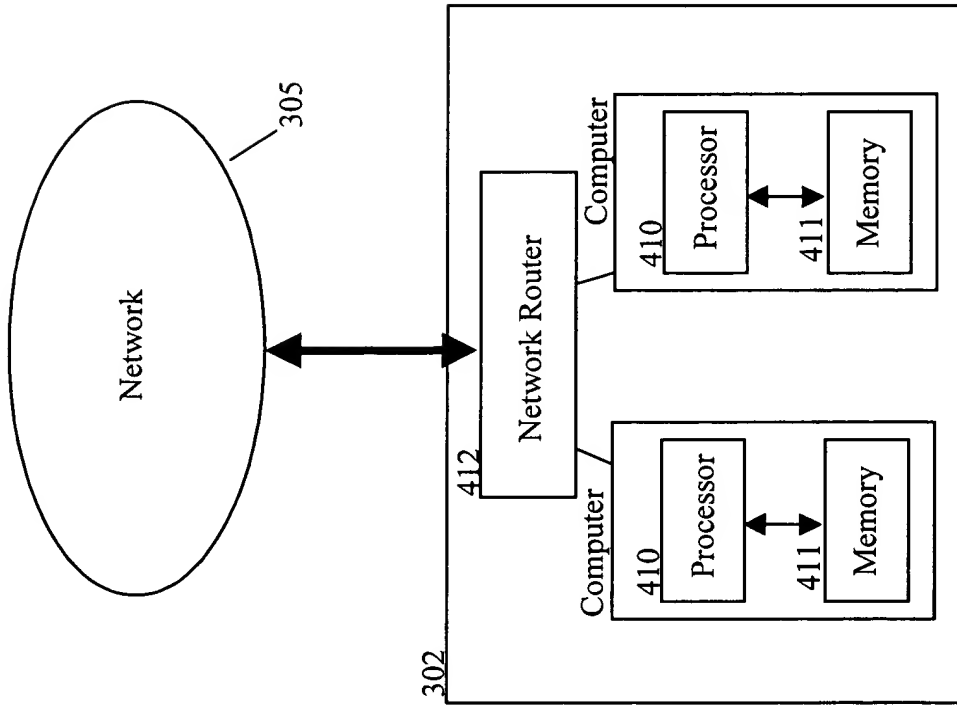


Fig. 4

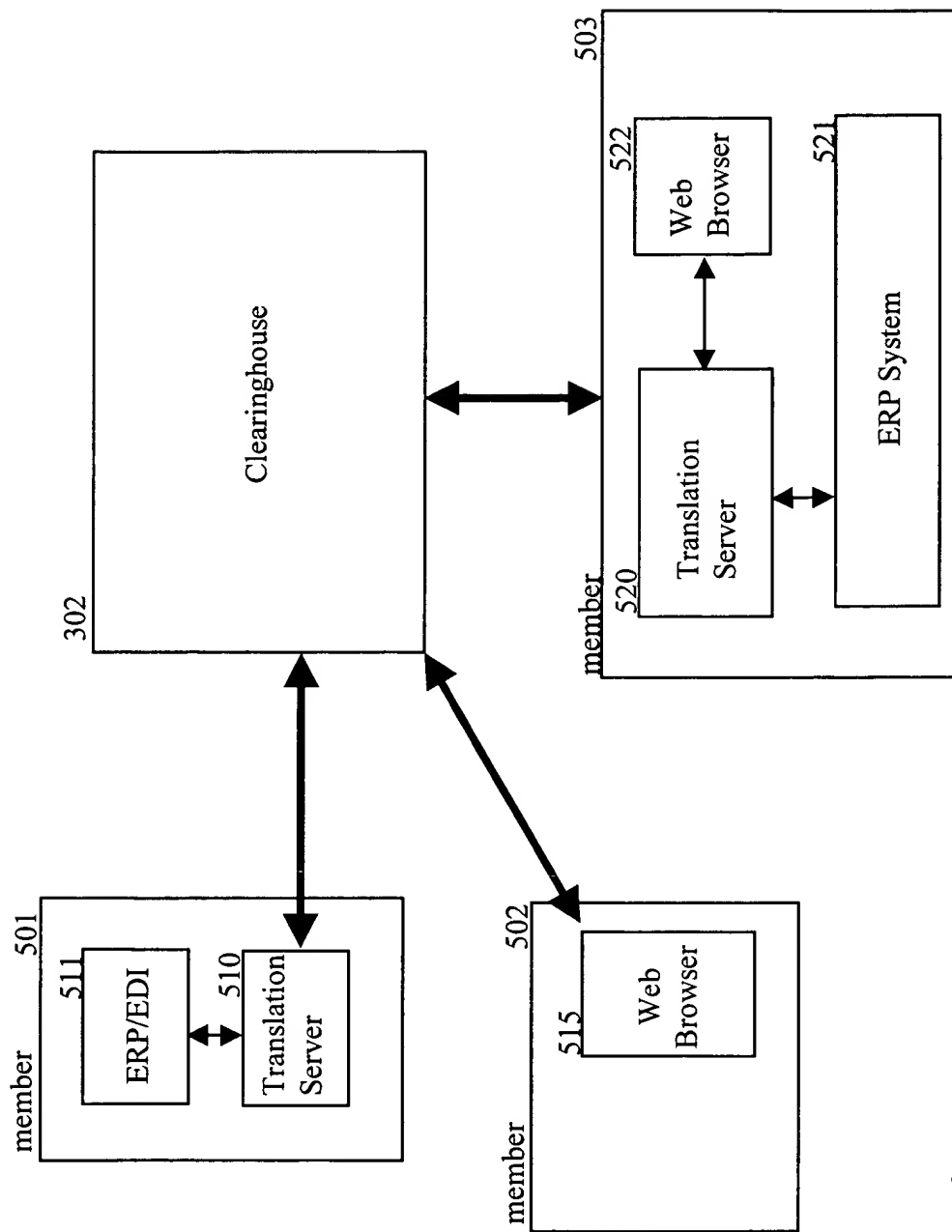


Fig. 5

Product Catalog (606)		Banking/ Billing (604)
Order Processing (601)	Procurement (607)	
Shipment Tracking (603)		
Industry News (610)	Supplier Managed Inventory (602)	
Logistics (607)		Auctions (609)
		Regulatory Report (608)
Business Intelligence (605)		

Clearinghouse Services

Fig. 6

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a system for processing electronic data interchange (EDI) transactions. The system includes a clearing house (302) that receives data from various sources (701, 702, 703, 704) and distributes it to various destinations (705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000).

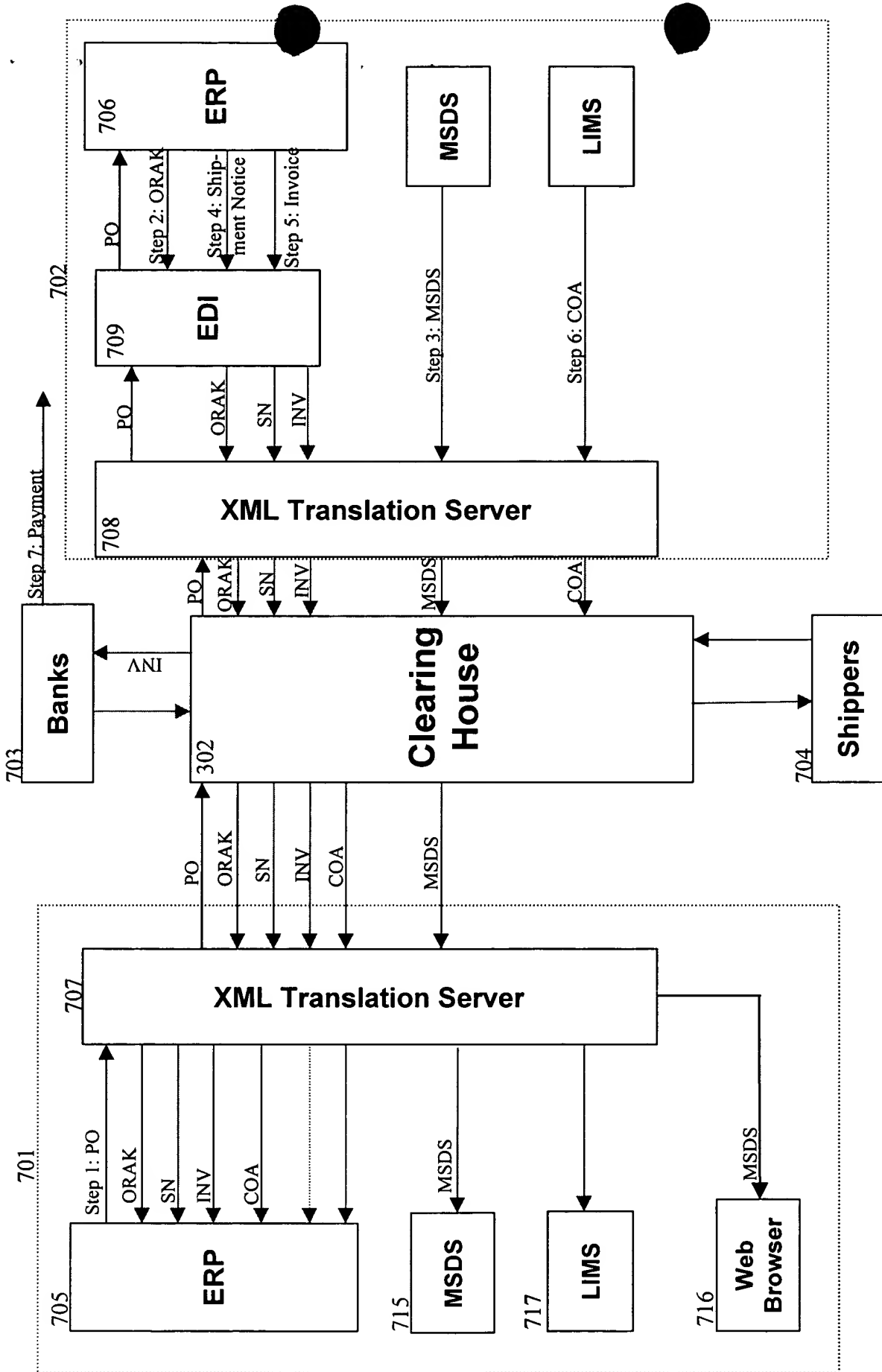


Fig. 7

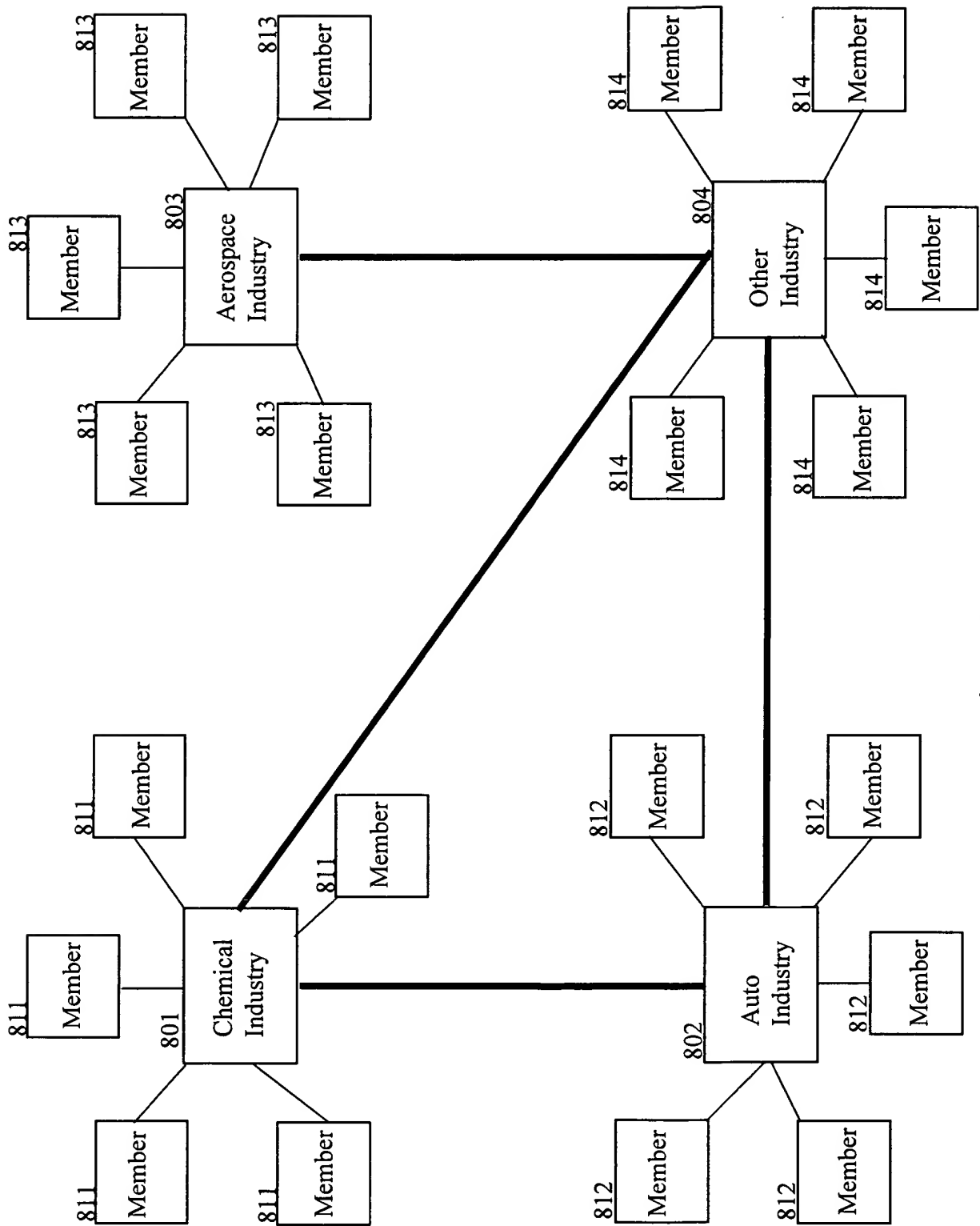


Fig. 8

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a system for providing a user with information about a product or service. The system includes a user interface 801, a database 802, a processing unit 803, and a network 804. The user interface 801 is connected to the database 802, the processing unit 803, and the network 804. The database 802 is connected to the processing unit 803. The processing unit 803 is connected to the network 804. The network 804 is connected to a server 805. The server 805 is connected to a client 806. The client 806 is connected to a user 807. The user 807 is connected to the user interface 801. The user interface 801 is connected to the database 802. The database 802 is connected to the processing unit 803. The processing unit 803 is connected to the network 804. The network 804 is connected to a server 805. The server 805 is connected to a client 806. The client 806 is connected to a user 807. The user 807 is connected to the user interface 801.